

PACIFIC ISLANDER CANCER CONTROL NETWORK

Summary

Goals

The long-term goals of the Pacific Islander Cancer Control Network (PICCN) project are to improve cancer awareness, enhance recruitment to clinical trials, and increase the number of cancer control investigators among American Samoans, Tongans, and Chamorros in the United States. Figure 1 provides an overview of PICCN.

The specific aims of PICCN are to:

1. Build an infrastructure to improve cancer awareness among Pacific Islanders;
2. Use the infrastructure to enhance accrual of Pacific Islanders to clinical treatment and prevention trials;
3. Use the infrastructure to promote participation of Pacific Islander investigators in cancer control research;
4. Plan and institute collaborative pilot projects; and,
5. Develop competing grant applications stemming from the pilot projects.

Successful accomplishment of the project goals will result in the following benefits:

1. Infrastructure development through the institutionalization of networks within and between Pacific Islander groups, and between Pacific Islander groups and federal, state, and local institutions involved in cancer control and prevention.
2. Capacity enhancement through the training of network members in cancer control and prevention activities.
3. Development of culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate cancer control and prevention educational materials and implementation of educational programs.
4. Education and training of Pacific Islanders in cancer prevention and control research.
5. Development of comprehensive research grants that focus on the specific cancer control needs of each Pacific Islander group.
6. Enhanced accrual of Pacific Islanders in clinical trials.

Collaborating Institutions

The project's lead institutions are the University of California, Irvine (UCI) and the National Office of Samoan Affairs (NOSA). Drs. F. Allan Hubbell (Principal Investigator) and Shiraz I. Mishra (Co-Principal Investigator and Research Director) represent UCI. Ms. Pat Luce (Co-Principal Investigator) represents NOSA.

UCI and NOSA will collaborate with six community-based organizations representing the Pacific Islander populations and other federal, state and local agencies. The six community-based organizations, along with UCI and NOSA, constitute the "primary" network of organizations and institutions. Over the course of the project, the primary network of organizations and institutions will develop "secondary" networks with other organizations and institutions within their catchment areas to enhance the scope and benefits of the project. The six community-based organizations included in the primary network are:

Organizations representing the American Samoans include the ***Office of Samoan Affairs*** (Ms. June Pouesi, Executive Director) based in Carson, CA, and ***the Native American Samoan Advisory Council*** (High Chief Senator Moaaliitele, Chairperson) based in American Samoa.

Organizations representing the Tongans include ***the State Office of Pacific Islander Affairs*** (Mr. Bill Afeaki, Director) based in Salt Lake City, UT and the ***Taulama for Tongans*** (Leafa Tuita Taumoepeau, President) based in San Francisco, California.

Organizations representing the Chamorros include the ***Sons and Daughters of Guam*** (Mr. Manuel Sablan, Executive Director) based in San Diego, CA and the ***Guam Department of Public Health*** (Mr. Dennis Rodriguez, Director) based in Guam.

Organizational Structure

Figure 2 provides an overview of PICCN's organizational structure. The network includes a PICCN Steering Committee, a Pacific Islander Community Committee, and three Advisory Boards. The selected overlapping membership between these bodies will allow a forum for the discussion of issues that affect different populations in their geographical areas. The directors of the six community-based organizations forming the primary network will be designated as Community Coordinators, and they will participate in the PICCN Steering Committee, the Pacific Islander Community Committee and on the three advisory boards.

The ***PICCN Steering Committee*** will coordinate all the network activities. The committee will set policy, provide overall guidance and direction, and supply support for all project-sponsored activities. Composition of the committee will include 12 members with representation from the six primary community-based organizations (i.e., the Community Coordinators), UCI, NOSA, and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This composition will ensure that at least one-third of the committee members have expertise in scientific disciplines necessary for success of the pro-

ject. The composition will also facilitate an open dialogue between community leaders (representing all the geographical areas), academicians, and program planners.

The Steering Committee will meet two times in the first year and one time in subsequent years. To minimize cost, most of these meetings will be held at UCI. However during the duration of the project, we will also hold one meeting at each of the cities on the US mainland in which the community-based organizations reside (ie, Salt Lake City, UT; San Francisco, CA, and San Diego, CA). This approach will allow Steering Committee members to have a better understanding of the settings in which the specific aims of this project will be carried out. In addition, one Steering Committee meeting will be held in Washington DC in order for members to interact with a variety of NCI staff. During these meetings the Steering Committee will review the goals, action plans, and outcomes for each of the project related activities.

The *Pacific Islander Community Committee* will coordinate the network building activities among the community-based organizations. NOSA will provide the technical background to the agencies in the primary network on how to establish, nurture, maintain and institutionalize extensive networks. Initially, the committee will represent six community-based agencies, one agency at each of the geographical locations. The committee will comprise of eight members, the six Community Coordinators and representatives from NOSA and UCI. The committee will meet three times during the first year and two times in subsequent years. The meetings will be held in conjunction with meetings of the Steering Committee.

The project will have three *Advisory Boards*, one each for the three Pacific Islander groups. The responsibilities of the boards will include: liaison with the PICCN Steering Committee; establishment of guidelines for monitoring project related activities such as development of grass-root level networks within the community and between local academic/ technical institutions; capacity enhancement; cancer awareness activities; personnel training; development and implementation of pilot projects; recruitment of community participants for clinical trials; and development and implementation of research programs.

Each Advisory Board will consist of six members including the two Community Coordinators (for the specific Pacific Islander group), representatives from UCI and NOSA, and two other members from the region who have a scientific background. The composition of the Boards will permit us to address the diverse and unique needs of each of the Pacific Islander groups at their points of origin (home islands) and at their points of destination (US mainland). These needs may be due to migratory patterns, acculturation patterns, socio-economic disparities, and access to health care services. In addition, the composition of the Boards will ensure that at least one-third of the membership includes individuals with expertise in scientific disciplines such as epidemiology, biostatistics, public health/education, sociology, medicine, and nursing.

The Advisory Boards will meet three times in the first year and two time per year thereafter, with sites alternating between the two primary geographical areas of residence for each Pacific Islander group. Therefore, the Samoan Advisory Board will alternate its meetings between California (Los Angeles) and American Samoa, the Chamorro Advisory Board will alternate its meetings between Guam and California (San Diego), and the Tongan Advisory Board will alternate its meetings between Utah and California (San Mateo).

Figure 2: Pacific Islander Cancer Control Network (PICCN) Organizational Chart

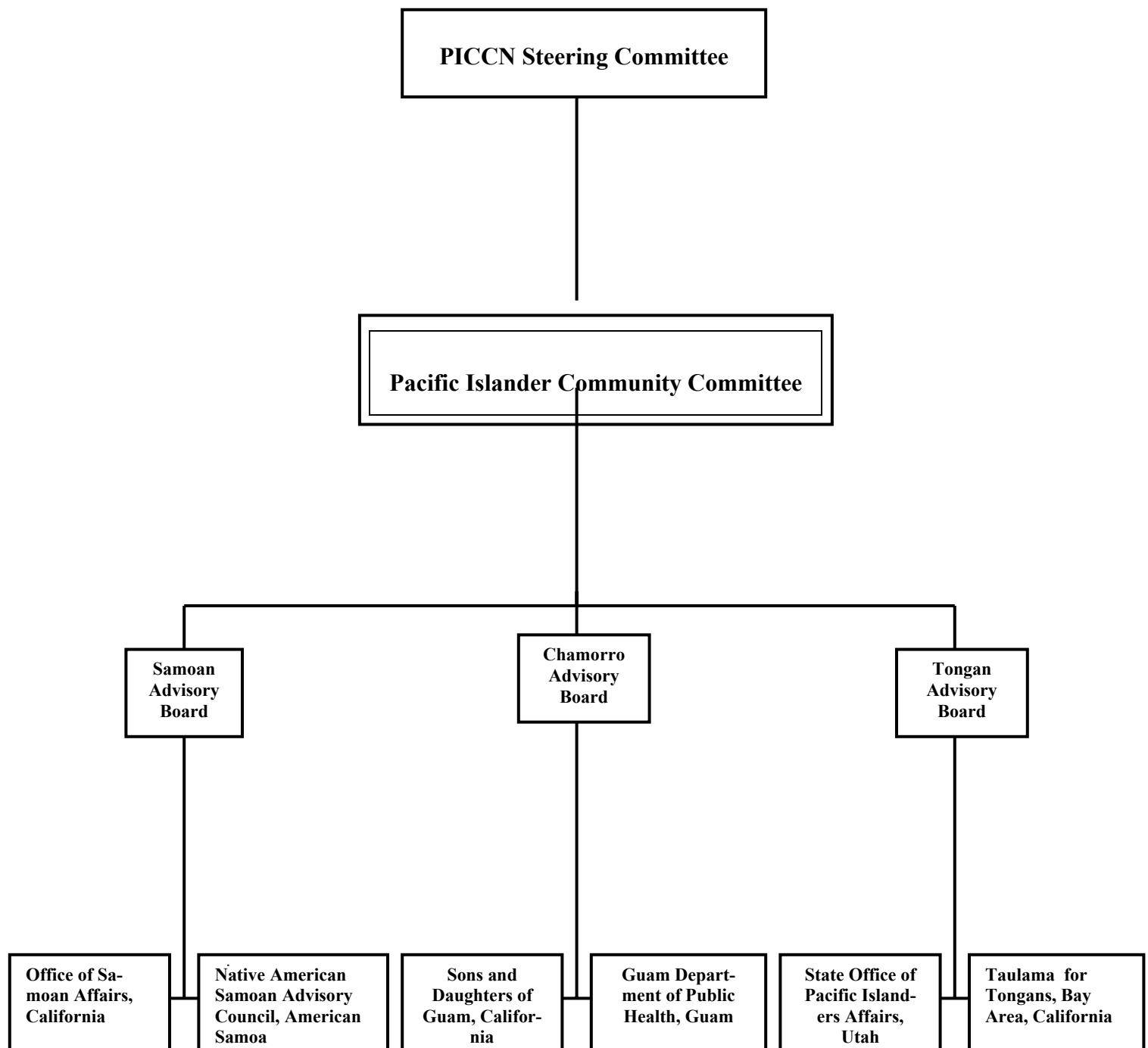


Figure 1: Overview of Pacific Islander Cancer Control Network

